

Spencer

~~Spencer~~ SPENCER

Ann
Edmund
John
Nicholas
Robert
William

Misc

"Brother"
Eliza

Ann

Survey 1694-1704

181

Est of Ann Spencer dec'd bel to Jane Jordan &
Mary the wife of Francis Sowerby. dau
of Tho Jordan 1694.

Survey 1694-1704

11.

list of prop in hands of Wm Brown & Jas Jordan
due to Jane & Mary Jordan orphans of Tho. Jordan
being their pt of Ann Spencers est. by agreement
with Mr. John Walkers adm. of Ann Spencer 1694

Edmund

5th

5-73

Denny Briggs conveyed land to Edmund Spencer who he sold in 1774 to John Gunner

4-72

Edmund Spencer - Par of St Luke, sons David + son, son Ezekiel, son-in-law Nathan Jackson + his wife Sarah, son Jesse, wife Mary - son-in-law Denny Beal one case containing twelve bottles, also one large iron bound chest + 2 head of sheep - dau Eliza -

Exs - fid Geo Gurling + son-in-law Denny Beale Exs - X

9-1-1784.

10-14-1784.

Donnell Whittington, John Beal.

John

Cesex

D 9-18. ✓ Jas. Jones of Cesex Co. for
3500 lb to John Spencer of Rich Co.
100a - ady. Jas Cogella 1/2 to extent
of Wm Clapham's land - land formerly
by deed convey to Alex Henderson by
Wm Clapham + Wm Mary assigned from
sd Henderson to abel Jones. 65

2-10-1695.

3-10-1695 -

The Parker, The Short

183

Seemly

#2

The Ctary + wife Eliza aged 32 - 1678 -
depo about John Spencer who sd he wld leave
what he had to his sisters Mary + Eliza 1675.

Nicholas

1669 - Rich Spencer Jr.
to com Cockerham land
leg him by his Uncle
Wm Spencer.

Wm. Rich. Spencer Sr.
David com.

S. Bk 1 - 289.

1658.

David Williams gives
Nicholas Spencer & his
wife during their lives
a small piece of land
bet he. Spencer's house &
the ck bounded by com
Cockerhams land.

Sury Bk 1 - 125

1669. Rich. Spencer Sr. lends his son
John Spencer to Capt Wm Cockerham for
1 yrs & leases him his farm for 9 years
etc - in consideration of debt washing etc
for sd term if he likes that long & to
provide for son John
Wm Walter Turner Rich Bread.

S. Bk 1 - 305

5-14-1667- Nicholas Spencer Jr - sells all d
to Pandz wh. belonged to his uncle Wm Spencer
decd & leg by sd com to his nep. Rich. Spencer - to
Capt. Wm Cockerham. Sury Bk 1 -
Wm. Rich. Spencer Sr & David com. 287.

Nicholas

10-24-1667 - Rich. Spencer Sr. lends his son John
Spencer to Capt. Wm. Cockerham for 7 yrs - lease
his farm for 7 yrs etc in cons. of debt,
clothing, washing etc for Rich. Spencer Sr. for sd
term if he survives that long + provides for
his son John.

Walter Turner, Rich. Breed.

7-9-1668 - Wm. says John was given some
clothes by will of his father.

Sunny Blk 1 - 305.

April 1653 -

Henry Meddowes pat for
300 a dated 1649 assigned
to Robt Atkinson + on 5-6-
1655 - assigned by Robt Atkinson
to Robt Spencer

Surry Bk 1-69.

1-16-1660/1

Robt. Spencer aged 30 yrs
Surry Bk 1-166

John Whetson -
calls Robt Spencer
father-in-law
1672

S 2-18

Robert

1669

Chas Amory a col of
Capt Wm Cockerham - dec.
Sec Robt Spencer + Wm
Oldis - Tution of 2d Col
2 sons Wm + Thomas (nephew
of age) Bonds case person
+ Edw Travis of Jax City Island.

S. Bk 1-334.

Robt Spencer - 30 yrs old
1660/61 -

S. Bk 1-166

1-69. Henry Meddowes pat for 300
a dated 7ber 20-1649 - in April 1653
assigned to Robt Spencer + Robt Atkinson
by 2d ad med. - 2d ad Atkinson do
assign all my rt to Robt Spencer.

1655

Wm Geo Harriman, John Seever (?)

Robert

204. S. G. B. 1671-90

I appt Capt Robt Spencer +
Mr. Robt Cuffin to serve as sheriffs -
until the pleasure of the Gov is known.
5-7-1678

280. Mr. Robt Cuffin recd appt Mr. J
The Jordan - as manager extd of
Capt Robt Spencer - 7th due him.
9th - 5 - 1679

S. G. B. 1671-90

199. Capt Robt Spencer - let action cgt
Thos Taylor - rec for 20 Taylor up to
answer sent of Mr. Geo. Proctor 1678.

Robert

Survey 1#2

291 ap 21 of Capt Robert Spencer by Jan the 14, 5-6-1679.

by Robt Ruffin; ... from Newseum, John Price

292 Jane - Th. Jordan, 7th 6-1681

William

Survey D# 2

44. Wm Cuckram Sells land pd by Wm Spencer 1637.
1 fm sd Spencer due to me. 1655/6

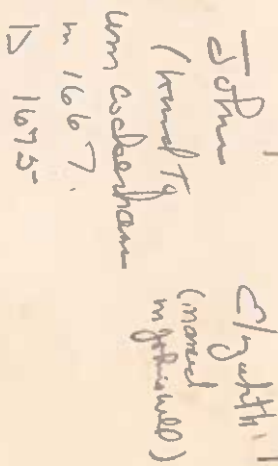
D# ~~1395~~

Court P

16

Wm Spencer of Jas. Is within corp of Jas. C
Yeoman 250a on W side of Sawonsch 9-9-1632
50a acreage due in rd of Jas Torke who came
in Geo 1621 - 100a in rd of Hugh Weym &
Robt Lutchell who both came in the Geo 1621 at
ch of Captum Peere - etc

—||



Good to you

um G/die

1669

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MRS. CHAS. B. KEESEE, Regent
"Chaskeokee", Martinsville, Va.

MRS. HAMPTON FLEMING, Vice-Regent
1622 Grove Ave., Richmond, Va.

MRS. ARTHUR ROWBOTHAM, Rec. Sec'y
Altavista, Va.

MRS. SAMUEL S. WALKER, Cor. Sec'y
824 Sterling Ave., Martinsville, Va.

MRS. J. SCOTT SANDY, Treas.
1610 Confederate Ave., Richmond, Va.



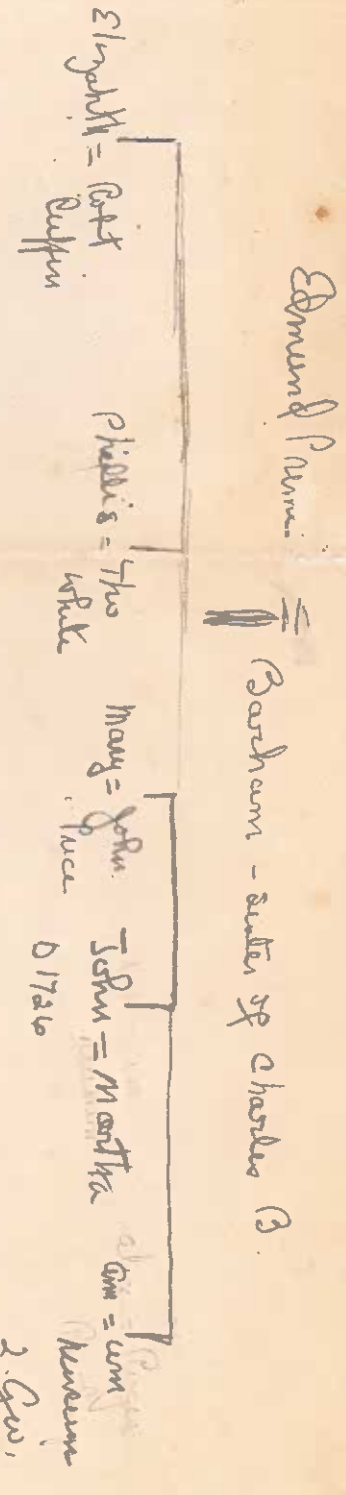
VIRGINIA

MRS. F. B. KEGLEY, Historian
Rose Hill Farm, Wytheville, Va.

MRS. G. LLOYD BELL, Registrar
Rocky Glen, Lakeview Heights
Suffolk, Va.

MRS. LEWIS L. CHAPMAN, Librarian
Box 182, Smithfield, Va.

MRS. HARRY R. GREENE, Chaplain
Fort Loudoun Seminary
Winchester, Va.



(THE SPENSE OR SPENCER LINE)

LINE NO. A13

12. ENSIGN WILLIAM SPENCER, (OR SPENSE), THE IMMIGRANT, BORN IN ENGLAND; DIED AFTER 1637 IN SURRY CO., VA.; WAS "YEOMAN & ANCIENT PLANTER, CAME TO THE VIRGINIA COLONY IN THE FIRST SUPPLY IN 1608, WAS HONEST, VALIANT AND INDUSTRIOUS WORKMAN, AND FIRST TO CHOOSE LAND. HE WAS AN ENSIGN, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES FOR JAMESTOWN IN THE FIRST ASSEMBLY IN 1619; BURGESS FOR MULBERRY ISLAND IN 1624; PATENTED 12 ACRES OF LAND ON JAMESTOWN ISLAND IN 1624 AT WHICH TIME HE HAD A WIFE ALICE AND A DAUGHTER ALICE, BORN 1620. IN 1632-3 HE WAS BURGESS OF MULBERRY ISLAND" (REF: "ENCYCLOPEDIA OF VIRGINIA BIOGRAPHY", VOL. 1, P. 329; HOTTEN'S EMIGRANTS, P. 228--SHOWS AMONG THOSE LIVING AT JAMESTOWN ISLAND IN 1624, "WILLIAM SPENCER CAME IN THE 'SARAH', ALICE HIS WIFE IN THE _____, ALICE THEIR DAUGHTER AGED 4 YEARS'. AMONG THE DEAD AT JAMES CITY AND ON THE ISLAND IS MENTIONED 'WILLIAM SPENCER A CHILD' (HOTTEN'S EMIGRANTS, P. 229), WHO WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY A SON OF THIS FAMILY. NUMEROUS LAND GRANTS WERE MADE TO WILLIAM SPENCER IN SURRY CO., VA. IN 1624 HE IS REFERRED TO AS "ENSIGN WILLIAM SPENCER" IN A GRANT TO JOHN JOHNS, YEOMAN (REF: "CAVALIERS & PIONEERS" BY MRS. NUGENT, P. 4). A GRANT OF 550 ACRES OF LAND IN SURRY CO., VA. IN 1635 CALLS HIM "WILLIAM SPENCER, GENT." INDICATING THAT HE WAS A JUSTICE OF THE COUNTY AT THAT TIME. WE HAVE MENTIONED THE TWO LARGEST GRANTS MADE TO HIM, ONE FOR 1100 ACRES OF LAND IN 1635, WHICH WAS LATER HELD BY ROBERT SHEPPARD AND BY HIM DEEDED TO WILLIAM CAUFIELD IN 1652; AND ONE FOR 1350 ACRES OF LAND IN 1637, WHICH WAS INHERITED BY WILLIAM COCKERHAM. THE DATE OF WILLIAM SPENCER'S DEATH IS UNCERTAIN. THE LAST REFERENCE TO HIM IS IN THE LAND GRANT OF 1637. ON JANUARY 21, 1628 NICHOLAS SPENCER TESTIFIED THAT JOHN LIGHTFOOT LEFT HIS PROPERTY TO WILLIAM SPENCER (REF: "MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL & GENERAL COURT OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA," P. 181) WHICH MAY INDICATE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPENCER & LIGHTFOOT. ONLY THE TWO DAUGHTERS, ELIZABETH (WIFE OF ROBERT SHEPPARD) AND _____ (WIFE OF CAPT. WILLIAM COCKERHAM), SEEM TO HAVE SURVIVED HIM; AT LEAST, ROBERT SHEPPARD AND WILLIAM COCKERHAM SEEM TO HAVE INHERITED ALL HIS LAND (REF: "VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY", VOL. 47, PP. 370-4).

WILLIAM SPENCER MARRIED IN ENGLAND, ALICE _____, AND HAD: ELIZABETH, WIFE OF MAJOR ROBERT SHEPPARD; AND ANOTHER DAUGHTER, _____ (GIVEN NAME UNKNOWN), WIFE OF WILLIAM COCKERHAM.

(REF: "VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY", VOL. No. 47, PP. 268-271, & PP. 370-374; "JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES OF VIRGINIA, 1619-1658/9", P. VII & P. XIV).

11. ELIZABETH SPENCER, BORN 1620 IN VIRGINIA COLONY; DIED IN SURRY

(SPENCER LINE -CONTINUED)

LINE No. A13--CONTINUED

COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

ELIZABETH SPENCER MARRIED MAJOR ROBERT SHEPPARD WHO WAS OF
SURRY Co., VA.

ELIZABETH SPENCER & MAJ. ROBERT SHEPPARD HAD A DAUGHTER
ANN SHEPPARD, WHO MARRIED THOMAS HART.

(REF: IBID., SAME REFERENCE AS ABOVE; ALSO SEE SECTION
"A" OF THIS COLLECTED DATA LINES Nos. A30-11; A12-10;
A24-10; A33-9; A33-8;

C & P 3. Wm Spencer, yeoman + ancient planter -
129 - Jas City 1624 - near land of Sir Tho Dale +
John Lightfoot

4. John Johnson - land at Jas City - toward ¹⁶²⁴ Bonaig Wm. Spencer ^{died}

16. Wm Spencer - of Jas Is - yeoman - 250 a - W. side
of James ch. at the mouth - 4-9-1632 - it of Jas Torke
who came in Geo - 1621 - the ch. of wh passage he defayed
to Wm Neum - Carpenter of ship - 100 a - in it of
Hugh Wynn + Robt Satcheld who came in Geo. 1621 at
ex. of Capt Wm Peice, Transk of Spencer, 50 a in it
of Jas. Robinson came in Charter - ex defayed to Mr.
Wheaton - master of sd ship - 50 a in it of Joseph Beane
who came in abrigail 1622, where pas. sd Spencer defayed
to John Tooke mariner.

28. Wm Spencer 1100 a - upon Aug Is. + land + mouth

1628. of ch - 6-19-1635 - 22 servants - Robt Stokes,
Edw Walcott, Robt Arnold, Annanias Copelstone
p. 81 Geo. Prover, Rich. Atwill, Evan Wome, Franc Pearle,
Wm Michall, John Lewis, Kath Peice, Ellen Alice,
Antho Skeate, Hector Godbehere, Rich. Spencer,
Jon Dodman, John Holden, Tho Powell, Tho.
Smith, Tho. Clayton, John Mathews, Elizabeth
Nicholson. This pat renewed

4. John Johnson - land at Jas City - toward ¹⁶²⁴ ~~Ensign~~ ^{and} Wm. Spencer

16. Wm Spencer - of Jas Is - yeoman - 250 a - W. side of James ch. at the mouth - 4-9-1632 - st of Jas Torke who came in Geo - 1621 - the ch. of wh passage he defrayed to Wm Neum - Carpenter of ship - 100 a - w of Hugh Wynn & Robt Satchell who came in Geo. 1621 at ex. of Capt Wm Peirce, Transk & Spencer, 50 a w of Jas Robinson came in Charter - ex defrayed to Mr. Weston - wright of sd ship - 50 a w of Joseph Beane who c in abrigail 1622, where pas. sd Spencer defrayed to John Torke mariner.

28. Wm Spencer 1100 a - upon Aug 25. + land & mouth of ch - 6-19-1635 - 22 servants - Robt Stokes, 1628. Edw Wilmott, Robt Arnall, Annanias Copelstone, rep'd in 1637 Geo. Prosser, Rich. Atwell, Evan Wynn, Franc Pearle, p. 81 Wm Michall, John Lewis, Kath Peirce, Ellen Alice, antho Skeate, Hector Godbhere, Rich. Spencer, Jon Bodman, John Kolder, Tho. Powell, Tho. Smith, Tho. Clayton, John Mathews, Elizabeth Nicholson. This pat renewed.

20. Wm Spencer Gent, - 550 a - 8-28-1637 at mouth of Aug 25. ch + James ch. - 11 persons. Anthony Stolon. David Red, Anthony Hall, Humphrey Woolhouse, Mary James, John Yepe, Roger Shelly, Robt Cornish + Rich. Barth.

"Brother"

Eliza

~~Will~~

5-17-1672 - P. Atty - Tho Taberner to
"Brother Spencer" - as adm est
John Munder dec'd to see Capt
Tho Pitman for debt dec'd and
Munder's est.

Bk 2 - 14

✓ 265 - Eliza Spencer of full age
made choice of M. Tho. Jordan as guard. 1679
S. O. Bk i -

Pg. 154

1671-1684

John Spencer, Southwark Parish, surrenders
 2nd Henrys lands all to sisters Mary
 & Elizabeth sworn by John & Elizabeth
 Clay (age 32)

d.
 December 27, 1675

s. Jan. 25, 1675

n. Feb 8, 1675

Pg. 320

Robert Spencer, Southwark Parish,
 dau. Elizabeth land at the Blackwater in
 Surrey reversion to Anne Ann, Capt. George
 Watkins, her estates under W^m Edwards,
 godsons Henry Browne & James Mason,
 godson ^{grandson} John Bennett, Martha Whitlam, due from
 Estate of dead father John Whitlam, cows
 now due from Roger Archer, cattle at
 W^m. Richardsons delivered at age of marriage

of said Martha reversion to her sons
 Eliz. & Ann, Lt. Col. Wm Browne, Wm
 Edwards, wife Jane, and I now live on
 during her natural life reversion to Ann
 wife Jane, et — successors Lt Col Wm Browne,
 Wm Edwards

wit. George Lee, Jane Place, John Phillips
 (scotchman), Edward Palath

March 5, 1678

May 6, 1679

rec. May 15, 1679

Book 1674-1709 - Pg. 40

Rogers Rawlings, dau. Eliz Pettway
 four sons of Wm Pettway, son Mary
 Paulina, dau Eliz Rawlings, Sarah
 Hickman — wife Eliz, et.

wit. Richard Harding, Mary He Kman & Mary Phillips

Sept. 17, 1694

March 5, 1694

white and of him
Burchell w. silver
except a small
in of rich clouds
1661

George
D.S.P.
1673.
dark 1662

Solomon w. silver
D 1655-

= George

= Ellyth = Rest

D 1714.

Rufin.
M. H. 1677.
D 1699

Tok N = Ellyth
Spencer

James = T. 1677
= Math Ellyth

John Cohen gave her away
S. 1677 1677 John Cohen gave her away
G. 1677 1677

Rest =

am =

Jane

Clara = am Ellyth

Charles

January 14, 1939

Dear Blanche:

Mrs. Hines writes me that you wish to know if I will accept "Alice Bridger as wife of Dr. Robert Williamson- Mr. Boddie's new book lists her as such".

As I do not know the first thing about said Alice or why he so lists her, I cannot answer that. And as I am laid up with a cold and a lame ankle I got in auto accident in Florida- from whence I also brought my cold, I have no idea when I shall be able to get to the library to see his book- to say nothing of being more than swamped with work long overdue pertaining to the Order.

If you can send me all the particulars I will take time to look into it- otherwise I cannot possibly give it my attention for goodness knows when, although I fancy it has to do with some of Mrs. H's claims already accepted. I infer this from the fact that in the Tucker line as accepted, Dr. Robert's wife is given as Joan, dau. of Arthur Allen. I presume it is the same Dr. Robert meant in her query.

I am wondering if I must do, now, what I should have done in the beginning when you submitted only abstracts of those Williamson wills. It is my rule to call for records in full in any new claim; but in this the claim seemed well covered by the abstracts submitted; and knowing your wide experience in such things, I accepted them as sufficient.

As I see the point of her inquiry, judging from the data in hand- it has to do with George Williamson, son of Dr. Robert, and the latter's wife as mother of said George. That is- am I right in thinking you are wondering if Dr. Robert had wife Alice Bridges prior to wife Joan who was his widow; and was Alice mother of said George?

Your proof as to George (No. 8 in the pedigree) runs:

"Will of George Williamson: son George; son Robert; grandson Jacob Darden; son John; son Thomas; dau. Hester; the ~~land~~ ~~Mr. Reuben~~ plantation whereon Mr. Reuben Proctor now lives, being being the land escheated by Col. Joseph Bridger and so made over to my mother and my brother Robert, by the said Col. Bridger; my four daughters &c"

Proof for Robert Williamson: "Doctor of Physicke- I wish to be buried as near as may be possible to my late deceased father-in-law, Mr. Arthur Allen; to my wife Joan; to son Robert; son George; son Arthur; son Francis; Mr. Robert Burnett as marrying the relict of of Mr. Robert Williamson. Robert Burnett calls Arthur Allen brother, in his will.

The foregoing seemed to point to Arthur Allen the elder as being "father-in-law" to Dr. Robert, in the sense we use that term to-day and not "stepfather" as the term usually meant in that day, although occasionally we find "in-law" used then as now. Each case in this respect, must be weighed upon its own merits- and in this instance, the accompanying records seemed- and still seem so to me, in the light of the material I have at hand. Also, this data leaves no doubt as to Dr. Robert having had wife Joan, who survived him and married again. There is nothing in the records given in connection with him personally, that suggests any previous wife.

However, the data given for his son George- that is, the abstract

of his will, left a question in my mind as to the actual meaning of that excheat, because of its peculiar wording. Not that I thought it in any way affected the relationship for I cannot see that it does, in the light of what I have in hand- meaning just what I have quoted here, with the supplementary Allen data.

It is not clear to me what is meant by "escheated by" Bridger. Land escheated to the Crown when no legal claimant appeared and after an "inquisition" or investigation by the official escheator. Then if claimants did appear, after paying the "composition" or fees required to cover costs &c., they might reclaim said land. If not, then the land was open ~~to~~ as "waste" or public land for any one to take up on headright or other means of locating land.

The abstract as sent to me reads as though Bridger might have been the county escheator. I have no record of him as such; but he was an attorney and might have represented Joan Williamson in getting back land that had been escheated. There is not enough for me to form any opinion as to this; but I do not see how ~~he~~ why else it should read that the land was escheated by him; "and so" turned over to the mother and brother of George Williamson.

If I have these two wills in full; and also have in full whatever it is Mr. Boddie bases the claim that Alice Bridger was wife of Dr. Robert, I might see it that way; but certainly from what I have, there is not one thing to show an Alice Bridger ever lived; nor is there anything to indicate that Joseph Bridger's daughter was wife of Dr. Robert. Also, what I have seems to make of wife Joan ~~the~~ daughter of Arthur Allen, "father-in-law" of Dr. Robert's will.

I have just had to reject an "in-law" claim. And it is one that was worked ~~up~~ by a "syndicate of New York and Virginia" genealogists who keep their identity secret; and who charge very big fees. This much was told me by their client who hoped to join the Order through Alice, wife of Henry Seawell of Virginia, as the daughter of Captain Thomas Willoughby. You may recall that a patent of Thomas, of 1654, names Alice, Thomas and Eliz. Willoughby, as headrights. Thomas and Elizabeth are accounted for as his children. Alice has always been supposed to have been the wife and mother of the children.

However, a record was found where Thomas Willoughby called Lemuel Mason "grandson-in-law". Mason had married Ann Seawell, dau. of Henry and wife Alice.

On the surface, that looked like a pretty good claim to Thomas as the grandfather to Ann Seawell Mason; and said syndicate worked out a long series- mostly arguments- to show that she was, with a number of records to back them up.

Well, I have turned it down claiming that he was only ~~stepfather~~ step-grandfather to Ann, using their own proofs to upset their claim. For one thing, they either failed to understand early Va. conditions; or else tried to make them appear differently from what they were. For instance, what do you think of this for logic: In order to upset Alice, headright, as by any chance, being the wife, they maintained that Thomas married some one who either came with her parents or was born in Virginia and who never left Virginia; and married 1619 or 1620. I asked how, in that event, it happened she was not mentioned in either the List of Living, 1623/4; nor in the Muster, 1624/5, if living in Virginia as his wife, at the time each census was taken. I have not had time for a reply. And this kind of work drew a big fee, not only for Virginia end but she had them trace Willoughby of England when she is not

a Willoughby at all- even if Ann Seawell's mother was the mother of Willoughby's children. At least, said lady is not a Willoughby unless they can produce records to prove that Thomas was a grandfather at the age of 32 or 33 years. My finding was that he had married an Alice who was a widow with a daughter Alice when he married her.

And by the way, I went all through that Muster, page by page, to look for any such mother and daughter who might have been his wife and stepdaughter. Of course, it doesn't follow that they were in Virginia at that time. May have come in later. His son was born in 1632, per Merchant Taylor School records. But I found Alice Spencer, wife of William, they having daughter Alice aged 4, at time of Muster. Said William Spencer secured patent as late as 1638 so of course his wife could not have been the mother of Willoughby's children; but altho' Spencer's land is mentioned later, in patents, he does not appear alive again- I mean so we know he was alive.

Said land was on Lawne's Creek. I find no mention of him or his family in your books. Is there anything in Boddie about said Spencers? If not and you have nothing in your notes to refute, it seems to me it might well have been Alice Spencer who married Henry Seawell (the daughter, I mean) and had daughter Ann born either in 1634 or 1635. Said Alice was all of twelve by 1631 or 1632- marriageable age at that time. And as the first and only mention of Lemuel as grandson-in-law was in 1655; and we hear of Alice Willoughby for first time in 1654- Thomas may well have married her as second wife; and of course would have been interested in her son, Henry- about whom this all came out. This is not of any great importance since it does not open up any new line for any one- except to give the Masons the Spencers, if it works out; and they are already eligibles through Mason. It is merely an item of interest, to even partially identify even a second wife of Willoughby..

I don't expect you to make any search for this; but if you happen to have any notes at hand on Spencers, I shall appreciate it if you will report on this.

Sincerely yours,

Minnie G. Cook.

I believe I failed to comment on those dates- the Power atty. &c: I have changed this to 1695/6, in my copy of Val. Pa. it being the logical date for page, preceding that on p. 188, which is given as 1695

The dates of the other documents should help determine recording dates. For instance, you have some documents recorded before they were drawn up: Jennings, for instance, dated Jan. 10 ~~1694/1695/1696~~ 1696, you have recorded the previous June. I should, therefore, interpret that crazy symbol as 1697. That is, if you have copied dates of documents correctly, as given in the record.

I don't understand in the least about I.W. records, if they do not follow the usual method of recording. That is, all recording dates I have ever had occasion to take from court records, are the date of the at which the documents were offered for probate or approval and accepted as of record. They are not supposed to be dated according to just any old time a clerk happened to get around to scribbling them in a book.